

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6911

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, LA, US

SUBJECT: LPDR REQUIREMENT THAT US ISSUE NEW CONSULAR COMMISSION

REF A VIENTIANE 2016, B VIENTIANE 2015

1. IN CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT SALY KHAMSY, EMBOFF RECEIVED FULL CLARIFICATION OF LPDR POLICY ON ISSUANCE OF EXEQUATUR TO US CONSULAR OFFICER WHICH DIFFERS IN SOME RESPECTS FROM INFORMATION REPORTED REF A.
2. SALY SAID LAOS WOULD ISSUE ONLY ONE EXEQUATUR TO WHOMEVER EMBASSY DESIGNATED AS PRINCIPAL CONSULAR OFFICER. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT THIS WAS WENDY CHAMBERLIN AND THAT EMBASSY HAD SENT HER CONSULAR COMMISSION ALONG WITH NOTE REQUESTING EXEQUATUR TO FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED EXEQUATUR. OUR NOTE WAS DATED JULY 23.
3. SALY REPLIED THAT MINISTRY HAD ALREADY GRANTED HER PROVISIONAL RECOGNITION TO ACT AS CONSULAR OFFICER IN THEIR NOTE TO EMBASSY OF JULY 14.
4. SALY WENT ON TO SAY THAT OUR JULY 23 NOTE TO MINISTRY REQUESTING EXEQUATUR WAS CORRECT IN REFERRING TO LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. THE ENCLOSED CONSULAR COMMISSION ITSELF WAS NOT RPT NOT CORRECT, HOWEVER, SINCE IT REFERRED TO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE WORD "LAOS"

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WAS A COLONIALIST WORD NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE LPDR. THEREFORE,

THE MINISTRY HAD NOT SUBMITTED THE COMMISSION TO PRESIDENT SOUPHANOUVONG TO SIGN AN EXEQUATUR AND WOULD NOT DO SO UNTIL IT RECEIVED A NEW COMMISSION FROM THE EMBASSY CORRECTLY REFERRING TO LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. HE ADDED THAT OTHER EMBASSIES BESIDES U.S. HAD MADE SAME MISTAKE IN REFERRING TO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS, AND MINISTRY WAS SIMILARLY HOLDING UP ISSUANCE OF EXEQUATURS TO THEM UNTIL LANGUAGE CORRECTED.

5. SALY ADDED THAT IN CHAMBERLIN'S ABSENCE, ANOTHER U.S. EMBASSY OFFICER COULD HANDLE CONSULAR WORK. BUT HE STATED THAT EMBASSY NEED NOT RPT NOT SEND MINISTRY A NOTE DESIGNATING A TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT FOR HER, WHICH DIFFERS FROM INFORMATION REPORTED REF A. SALY COMMENTED THAT LIST OF EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL SHOWED WHICH OFFICERS HAD CONSULAR AS WELL AS DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS AND THIS WAS ADEQUATE FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. EMBOFF ALSO ASKED SALY WHETHER HE IN FACT STILL WANTED INFORMATION AS TO WHICH OFFICIAL AMERICANS HAD DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS AND WHICH ONES HAD OFFICIAL PASSPORTS AND WHICH AMERICANS IN LAOS HAD REGULAR PASSPORTS. SALY REPEATED HIS STATEMENT REPORTED REF B THAT LIST OF EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL WHICH EMBASSY PROVIDED MINISTRY WAS SUFFICIENT. EMBOFF NOTED THAT, EACH TIME A NEW AMERICAN OFFICIAL ARRIVED IN VIENTIANE, EMBASSY SENT A NOTE TO MINISTRY CONTAINING INFORMATION ON TYPE OF PASSPORT HE HELD, AND SALY CONCLUDED THAT WE NEED NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE HIM A COMPILATION OF WHICH MISSION PERSONNEL HELD WHICH TYPE OF PASSPORTS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT OBTAIN AND SEND EMBASSY A NEW COMMISSION ASSIGNING WENDY CHAMBERLIN AS VICE CONSUL "AT VIENTIANE, FOR THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC" AND REQUESTING "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC" TO PERMIT HER TO EXERCISE THAT OFFICE.
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